



May 29, 2014

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Member, United States
House of Representatives
Attn: Mr. Joseph M. Abner
441 Vine Street, Suite 3003
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Representative Chabot:

Thank you for your inquiry dated May 12, 2014, on behalf of your constituent

(b) (6) SO-Low Environmental
Equipment Co., regarding the status of SO-Low Environmental Equipment Co.'s
proposal to obtain a new contract under the U.S. General Services Administration's
(GSA) Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Program.

The Greater Southwest Acquisition Center (GSAC), Schedule 66 "Scientific Equipment and Services," currently has a high number of 20-year contracts that will be expiring within the next few years. Due to employee shortages and heavier than anticipated workflow, the timeframe for processing offers has been much longer than normal. In anticipation of this workflow issue, GSAC notified affected contractors to submit their offers not later than 1 year prior to the expiration of their current contract to ensure sufficient time to evaluate and negotiate the offer and award a new contract to facilitate a seamless transition for contractors and Federal customers.

The Government advised SO-Low Environmental Equipment Co. in a letter dated March 21, 2013, to submit a new offer no later than May 31, 2013, to ensure a timely award of its new contract in advance of the expiration of 20-year contract number GS-25F-5032C on March 31, 2014. No renewal options were remaining on this contract, so no further extension was possible beyond the March 31, 2014, end date.

As (b) (6) acknowledged in his letter, the GSAC received the SO-Low Environmental Equipment Co.'s eOffer (GSA number 58439), submitted under solicitation 7FCB-C4-07-0066-B on January 21, 2014, which unfortunately, was not timely enough to avoid expiration of the original contract.

The GSAC practice is to evaluate offers in the order in which they are received but does give priority to offers from current contractors who are in good standing with Federal customers. Based on the aforementioned, the SO-Low Environmental Equipment Co.

offer is currently being evaluated and an award status will be determined as soon as possible, but no later than June 30, 2014.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 501-0563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. Austin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa A. Austin
Associate Administrator

STEVE CHABOT

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FIRST DISTRICT, OHIO

2351 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2216

CAREW TOWER
441 VINE STREET, ROOM 3003
CINCINNATI, OH 45202
(513) 684-2723



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEES:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH,
TAX AND CAPITAL ACCESS

November 10, 2014

Mr. Rodney Emery
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
General Services Administration
Fax: (202) 219-5742

Dear Mr. Emery:

Enclosed is correspondence that I have received from a constituent of mine, (b) (6) regarding his interest in having some of his published poetry, which he indicates is currently posted at Arlington National Cemetery, also be placed in various federal buildings in the Cincinnati area.

I would very much appreciate it if you would take the time to carefully review the enclosed correspondence, make it part of any public record, and provide me with a copy of your response to (b) (6) (b) (6)

I respectfully request that you give (b) (6) every and full consideration in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations in the resolution of this matter. Please advise as to any assistance my office can provide.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact my Constituent Liaison, David McCandless, at (513) 421-8704. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

SC: dm

(1)

10/24/14

(b) (6)

author of
permanent
archives at Arlington Hall Cemetery
~~from~~ 1987 family request
the assistance of US Rep
Jesse Chabot to make
possible its permanent
display in a location
that the veterans can
gather to view Tomb
not only on Veterans Day (over
but also the other days of
the year. The Veterans ~~absolutely~~

2

request the assistance
of US Rep. Chabot to
make possible the 2 treaties
to be placed permanently in
the inside of the main
US Federal Bldg in
Cinth, Ohio.

Respectful Submitted

(b) (6)

behalf of our
honorable 54 Veterans
across this great Nation

* ④ an American Impressionist of the Adolph
⑤ a soldiers Epitaph - a Kluge Freak



January 2, 2015

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Member, United States
House of Representatives
441 Vine Street, Room 3003
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Representative Chabot:

Thank you for your letter dated November 10, 2014, on behalf of your constituent, Dr. John Wehby, regarding his request to have his poetry permanently displayed in Cincinnati-area federal buildings.

We have reviewed and given careful consideration to Dr. Wehby's request. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) does not generally make interior public spaces in Federal buildings available to members of the public for the permanent display of art or other cultural works such as Dr. Wehby's poems. GSA acquires permanent installations of such works through the agency's Art in Architecture program (www.gsa.gov/artinarchitecture).

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at (202) 501-0563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. Austin".

Lisa A. Austin
Associate Administrator

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Small Business

2561 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-6515

December 11, 2014

The Hon. Chuck Hagel,
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
3060 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3060

The Hon. Maria Contreras-Sweet
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW.
Washington DC 20416

The Hon. Dan Tangherlini
Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Secretary Hagel, Administrator Contreras-Sweet, and Administrator Tangherlini,

On November 3, 2014, the Committee sent you each a letter regarding the implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2014 (FY14 NDAA), Public Law 113-66. The letter inquired as to the status of a report required by Section 1614 that was due to the Committee by June 4, 2014, and which the Committee has not received.

The letter emphasized the importance of completing this report in a timely manner, since failing to do so not only deprives small businesses of the opportunity to compete for contracts, but also because the report was timed to complement the planned redesign of the federal government's subcontracting systems. The current systems are scheduled to be replaced and relaunched during the third quarter of fiscal year 2015. These systems are located in the General Services Administration (GSA), with the Small Business Administration (SBA) directing policy on subcontracting goals, and the Department of Defense (DoD) providing the majority of funding. Thus, the report required collaboration between the funding, managing, and policy agencies. The report is now over five months late, and if the requirements are not provided to the GSA in a timely fashion, the Committee is concerned that the new system will not be designed to meet the requirements of the law. If the new system must be retroactively adapted to meet these

requirements, it will cause unnecessary expense and delay that simply complying with the law could avoid.

Consequently, the November 3 letter requested that your agencies, "deliver the required report with all due haste, and explain how the relaunched subcontracting system will include these requirements" by no later than November 17, 2014. Unfortunately, the GSA did not deign to respond to the November 3 letter. Andre Gudger, the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs at DoD responded on November 18, 2014, but his letter said that the report would not be delivered until November of 2015 – almost two years after the FY14 NDAA was signed into law, and 18 months after the report was due. The response did not address how the relaunched subcontracting system would include the requirements.

The SBA responded on December 1, 2014, with a letter containing a few bullet points reiterating the statutory requirements but with a timeline that could have us well into the next decade before Section 1614 is fully implemented. Indeed, the timeline proposed by the SBA stated that rulemaking by the Federal Acquisition Council would occur subsequent to the SBA rulemaking, when the statute explicitly requires concurrent rulemaking. Further, it was clear that the SBA and the DoD had not coordinated their responses, which is particularly ironic since the statutory report was intended to ensure that the three agencies were collaborating.

The lack of any response by the GSA and the utterly inadequate responses from the SBA and the DoD are simply unacceptable. Therefore, we, the outgoing and incoming Chairmen of the Committee on Small Business, request that each of the three agencies brief the Committee on the implementation plan. The individuals sent to provide the briefing should be capable of committing their respective agencies to actions agreed upon in the briefing. This briefing should occur no later than January 16, 2015. If an acceptable briefing is not provided by that date, the Committee will require your presence during the 114th Congress to personally convey the information required in the report during a hearing, and to provide commitments that the law will be fully implemented in the timeline set forth by FY14 NDAA. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Murphy, senior counsel for the Committee.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Chairman



Steve Chabot
Chairman-Elect

cc: The Hon. Anne Rung, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy
The Hon. Elizabeth King, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
Ms. Lisa Austin, Associate Administrator, General Services Administration
Mr. Thaddeus Inge, Assistant Administrator, Small Business Administration
Ms. Tamara Fucile, Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget



Congressman Steve Chabot
441 Vine Street, Suite 3003
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Privacy Release Form

The Privacy Act of 1974, Title 5, U.S. Code Section 552a, provides that as of September 27, 1975, disclosure of information of a personal or confidential nature of an individual will no longer be released to third parties without written consent of the individual concerned. Therefore, I request and authorize U.S. Congressman Steve Chabot and his staff to act on my behalf, and to receive information from and communicate information to any relevant persons or agencies regarding my concern as noted below. I further authorize Congressman Chabot's office to request inter-agency transfer of records where appropriate.

Prefix _____ First Name (b) (6) Last Name (b) (6)
Street Address (b) (6) City (b) (6) State (b) (6) Zip (b) (6)
Email (b) (6)
Telephone Numbers Home (b) (6) Cell (b) (6) Fax _____
Date of Birth (b) (6) Social Security # (b) (6) Case Number _____

Please state the nature of your request, problem, or complaint on which you would like assistance. Please be specific. If necessary, attach any relevant documents or notices.

Signature (b) (6) Date 5/1/14

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIAL TO:

Rep. Steve Chabot
ATTENTION: Constituent Services
441 Vine Street, Suite 3003
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
FAX: (513) 421-8722

May 1, 2014

(b) (6)

- So-Low engineers and manufactures ultra-low freezers
- Company based in Evendale since 1959
- They have had a GSA contract for over 30 years
- (They recently transitioned a new person to handle submitting their extensions and renewals.)
- In the past, they submitted 1 year contract extensions, rather than contract renewals with the GSA and not had a problem in the past with them processing their applications for the extensions. (b) (6)
estimated it had been 7-10 years since they submitted a renewal rather than an extension; he said it had been "quite some time" since they submitted a contract renewal to the GSA.)
- They received a letter from the GSA "recommending" they submit their contract renewal 1 year prior to the March 2014 deadline (b) (6)
will fax us a copy of this)
- They submitted their renewal in January 2014 **(3 months prior to the deadline).
- The day after the deadline (March 2014), their company was pulled from eBuy- which is a GSA website that allows government buyers to request information, find sources, and prepare RFQs/RFPs, online, for millions of services and products offered through GSA's Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) and GSA Technology Contracts. Government buyers can use eBuy to obtain quotes or proposals for services, large quantity purchases, big ticket items, and purchases with complex requirements.

- So-Low works with the NIH and the Defense Department and eBuy is where a lot of those government-contract transactions are made. (?)
- The GSA has told them they will not put them back on this website until their application is processed, which could take months and may negatively impact their potential sales & business contacts in the future.
- The person they have been speaking with at the GSA regarding their case (b) (6) will send the name) has told them their application has not been approved yet because it takes so long to process each application and there are others to be approved before them.

(b) (6) wants us to submit an inquiry on behalf of So-Low to the GSA requesting they speed up processing their application.

- He will send over documents they received from the GSA.
- He gave me a copy of the Authorized Federal Supply Schedule Pricelist Catalog and his card.

SO-LOW

Environmental Equipment Co., Inc.
10310 Spartan Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45215 USA
(513) 772-9410 e-mail: solow@ix.netcom.com
Fax (513) 772-0570 http://www.so-low.com

ENGINEERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF ULTRA-LOW FREEZERS

2/1/2011
Mod. 9

GSA **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

OFFICE OF FEDERAL SUPPLY AND SERVICES
AUTHORIZED FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE PRICELIST (CATALOG)

FSC GROUP 66, PART II, SECTION N

FSC CLASS 4110

CONTRACT NO. GS-25F-5032C

CONTRACT PERIOD: 4/1/09 THROUGH 3/31/14

CONTRACTORS NAME: SO-LOW ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
10310 SPARTAN DRIVE
CINCINNATI, OH 45215
PH: 513-772-9410
FX: 513-772-0570

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION SOURCE: SAME AS ABOVE

BUSINESS SIZE: SMALL

INFORMATION FOR ORDERING ACTIVITIES

1 - SPECIAL ITEM NOS. 66-137

2 - MAXIMUM ORDER LIMITATION - (b) (4)

3 - MINIMUM ORDER - (b) (4)

4 - GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE - 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND D.C.

5 - POINT OF PRODUCTION - (b) (4)

6 - DISCOUNT FROM PRICE LIST - (b) (4)

7 - QUANTITY DISCOUNTS (b) (4)

- 8 - PROMPT PAYMENT TERMS - (b) (4)
- 9 - A. GOVERNMENT COMMERCIAL CREDIT CARD IS ACCEPTABLE
B. NOT APPLICABLE
- 10 - FOREIGN ITEMS - NONE
- 11 - TIME OF DELIVERY - 30 DAYS A.R.O.
- 12 - F.O.B. POINT - ORIGIN - FREIGHT PREPAID AND ADDED
UNLESS SPECIFIED TO USE GOVERNMENT BILL OF LADING
- 13 - ORDERING ADDRESS - SAME AS CONTRACTORS NAME
- 14 - PAYMENT ADDRESS - SAME AS CONTRACTORS NAME
- 15 - WARRANTY PROVISION - ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF SHIPMENT ON
DEFECTIVE PARTS LIMITED ONLY TO PRODUCTS PURCHASED AND
INSTALLED WITHIN THE US (48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND D.C.)
- 16 - EXPORT PACKING CHARGES - (b) (4)
- 17 - NOT APPLICABLE
- 18 - TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RENTAL, MAINTENANCE & REPAIR - N/A
- 19 - TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF INSTALLATION - N/A
- 20 - TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF REPAIR PARTS - N/A
- 21 - LIST OF SERVICE AND DISTRIBUTION POINTS - UPON REQUEST
- 22 - LIST OF PARTICIPATING DEALERS - N/A

Aaron Snyder

GSA - Contract

From: Latieya Palmer - 7QSACB [latieya.palmer@gsa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:02 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Richard Armstead - 7QSACB
Subject: Re: FW: So-Low Environmental Equipment Co (Inc) - Schedule 66 Offer

Good Morning (b) (6)

On March 21, 2013 you were notified that you would need to submit your new offer as soon as possible to insure that there would not be a lapse in your contract. It was recommended that the new offer be submitted no later than 05/31/2013. Your offer was submitted on Jan 21, 2014. Due to the large number of new offers currently in process, it could take up to one year before your offer is evaluated. Currently we are giving our Sunset contracts priority. However, I have several Sunset contractors who have the same contract expiration date as you; that submitted their offers before Jan 2014. Therefore, I am required to work them in the order that they were received.

There is no waiver or extension that can be given to you, as your contract does not have any options left. As stated before, there is no change in your offer status. If you have any further question, you may contact myself or my Contracting Officer Richard Armstead at (817)850-8124 or richard.armstead@gsa.gov.

Respectfully,
Latieya N. Palmer, M.B.A.
Contract Specialist
GSA, FAS Greater Southwest Acquisition Center
(817) 850-8125
(817) 574-2342 (Fax)
latieya.palmer@gsa.gov

On Tue, Mar 25, 2014 at 8:36 AM, Aaron Snyder (b) (6) wrote:

> Is there any update on our Schedule 66 Offer. Also is there any kind
> of waiver that would allow us to work under our current GSA Contract
> until the new offer has been processed.

>

>

>

> Current GSA # GS-25F-5032C

>

>

(b) (6)

> Sales and Marketing Coordinator

(b) (6)

>

> So-low Environmental

> 10310 Spartan Dr.

> Cincinnati, Oh 45215

> Ph. (b) (6)

> Fx. 513-772-0570

>

>

> -----Original Message-----



GSA Greater Southwest Region

March 21, 2013

Jim W. Schum
So-Low Environmental Equipment Co, Inc.
10310 Spartan Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45215-1279

Dear Mr. Schum,

Please note that your contract, GS-25F-5032C, has now entered its final option period and will expire on 03/31/2014. Under current GSA policy, it is not possible to extend the term of your contract beyond the current end date.

Consequently, if it is your intent to continue offering your products and services via the GSA Multiple Award Schedule program, it will be necessary for you to submit a new proposal and obtain a new contract. The new proposal will be based upon the current solicitation (see attached downloading instructions) for your schedule and must be submitted well in advance of your contract end date. To ensure adequate time to evaluate the proposal, negotiate and award a new contract, and to provide for a seamless transition for you and your customers, it is recommended that the new offer be submitted no later than 05/31/2013.

Please reference your current contract number and include the name of your current contract specialist in all cover letters that are submitted. Also, please send me or your current contract specialist an email notifying us that you have submitted the offer.

Should you have questions or need assistance please contact me by telephone at (817) 850-8125 or email at latieya.palmer@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

LaTieya N. Palmer, 7QSACB
Contract Specialist

Attachment (Download Instructions or <http://eoffer.gsa.gov>)

U.S. General Services Administration
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
www.gsa.gov

Aaron Snyder

From: OrsEofferAutoGen@gsa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 12:30 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Eoffer receipt notification.

This is to notify you that your eoffer submitted against 7FCB-C4-070066-B for 066 has been received in Greater Southwest Acquisition Center (7QS) on 01/21/2014.

So-low Environmental

10310 Spartan Dr.

Cincinnati, Oh 45215

Ph. 513-772-9410

Fx. 513-772-0570

From: Dion Duarte - 7QSAC [mailto:dion.duarte@gsa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 10:16 AM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Latieya Palmer

Subject: So-Low Environmental Equipment Co (Inc) - Schedule 66 Offer Rejection Letter

Please see attached.

Dion Duarte
Lead Contracting Officer
GSA, FAS, 7QSAC-U1
817-850-8408
dion.duarte@gsa.gov

7

-----Original Message-----

From: dion.duarte@gsa.gov [mailto:dion.duarte@gsa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 12:30 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: dion.duarte@gsa.gov

Subject: New Offer Welcome Letter

Greater Southwest Acquisition Center (7QS)

NEW OFFER WELCOME LETTER

01/15/2014

(b) (6)

SO-LOW ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT CO (INC)
10310 SPARTAN DR
CINCINNATI, OH 45215-1279

Dear (b) (6)

Welcome to the Greater Southwest Acquisition Center (7QS). This is to notify you that we received your offer 58374 under the Solicitation No. 7FCB-C4-070066-B, on 14 Jan 2014 and to briefly explain what will happen in the coming weeks.

Your offer has been assigned to Contract Specialist, Dion Duarte. This individual will be your point of contact for any questions.

This is a system email that is generated upon initial review of your offer. Your submission will be reviewed to determine whether substantially complete. If determined complete, it will be assigned to a Contracting Officer for further review and evaluation. If it is determined substantially incomplete, it will be rejected and you will receive a letter via email noting the deficiencies.

Notice: The GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) program has recently experienced a tremendous increase in new offers. Due to the large number of new offers currently in process, it could take up to 12 months before your offer is evaluated.

GSA's practice is to evaluate offers in the order in which they are received. However, GSA may give priority to processing certain offers when circumstances dictate, such as when a federal agency Contracting Officer specifically requests an expedited offer review in order to meet a pending requirement that will be procured under the MAS program, or when there is a need for GSA to bring strategically critical new products or services to market in order to meet federal customer needs.

Please note: Since your offer is under review, you may not make any changes

(b) (6)

fss.online@gsa.gov

Subject: Exercise Option Mod was initiated for Contract GS-25F-5032C

GSA Federal Acquisition Service (FAS)

Greater Southwest Acquisition Center, (7QSA) Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear (b) (6)

As you are aware, your Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contract GS-25F-5032C is due to expire on Mar 31, 2014.

GSA is considering executing clause I-FSS-163 Option to Extend the Term of the Contract (Evergreen). Before this option may be exercised, the Contracting Officer must make an evaluation based on the requirements of the clause.

No changes will be allowed with this modification other than those required for the option. Additions, Deletions, Price Reductions, Economic Price Adjustments, Novations or other changes, must be made under a separate modification.

The Government reserves the right to evaluate whether the exercise of an option to extend the term of the contract, in whole or in part is in the best interest of the Government. If necessary, the Government may choose to enter into discussions and negotiations to address pricing and or terms prior to the exercise of the option.

If You Do NOT Want Your Current Contract Considered for the Option to Extend

If you do NOT want GSA to consider exercising the option to extend the term of the contract:

* Deadline

Your submission should be received no later than close of business on Oct 17, 2013.

*OLD: Used to express obligation, necessity, probability or contingency.
NEW: Used to express duty or obligation, a possible or expected future event.*

If this date has already passed, you must contact your Contracting Officer or Contracting Specialist IMMEDIATELY!

* How to Submit

See section below "How to Submit Documentation".

* What to Submit

Submit a letter on corporate letterhead, signed by a corporate officer, indicating your desire for GSA not to consider exercising an option to extend the term of this contract.

If You DO Want Your Current Contract Considered for the Option to Extend.

If you do want your current contract considered for the option to extend,



- o Ensure that your upload to GSA Advantage! is current
- o Ensure that you have reviewed and accepted all mandatory mass modifications
- o Ensure that your business size on SAM matches your current status

2. Small Business Subcontracting Plan (SubK Plan)

- o If applicable, a proposed Small Business Subcontracting Plan (FAR 52.219-9) must be submitted. If you do not have an approved subcontracting plan, you must submit a plan to the Contracting Officer for evaluation and approval prior to the option being exercised.

3. Commercial Pricelist

- o If you have submitted updated Commercial Sales Practices, please submit a copy of your current Basis of Award Pricelist.

How to Submit Documentation Via eMod

If you need help using eMod please refer to documents located at http://eoffer.gsa.gov/eoffer_docs/Guide_Links.html

Again, all data must be received no later than Oct 17, 2013.

Sincerely,
RICHARD ARMSTEAD

You have been sent this email because you are the contract administrator of record for contract number GS-25F-5032C. If you have any questions, please contact the Contracting Officer, RICHARD ARMSTEAD, richard.armstead@gsa.gov directly, at [817-850-8124](tel:817-850-8124)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

Date: April 2, 2014
Reference: HHSN263999900084B

Dear Vendor:

As of March 31, 2014, the BPA Program Office has not received the SF 30 to extend your GSA schedule that is associated with your BPA, therefore your BPA will be discontinued on March 31, 2014. If your company is interested in maintaining an active BPA with the NIH BPA Program please submit the above information.

If you have questions, I can be contacted via email at cv8p@nih.gov or by telephone at 301-435-3937.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Christina F. Vaughan
BPA Program Office Procurement Analyst

Attachment-SF30

NO WRITTEN RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 11, 2014 INCOMING: SEE BELOW.

Ann Anderson, Bobbi L. Conde, Deshawn Butler, Kim L. Butler, Kirby Richards, Pathina Fitzgerald, Peter Hong, Ron White, Theresa Ottery.

Subject: Information Copy from Larnell Exum for (H1A) Executive Secretariat Division # 276190

Message:

Charmaine,

in collaboration with DOD, GSA will conduct a briefing with members of Rep's. Graves and Chabot's staff no later than Jan 16, 2015. Kindly close this control.

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6315

April 5, 2016

Administrator Denise Turner Roth
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

RE: Small Business Opportunities at the U.S. General Services Administration

Dear Administrator Roth:

We are writing this letter in our capacity as Ranking Member and Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, which has jurisdiction over federal procurement matters that impact small companies. Recently, there have been a number of decisions made at the U.S. General Services Administration which have negatively impacted the ability of small firms to continue doing business with your agency and many others. GSA, once the entry point for numerous small businesses into the federal marketplace, has now made it difficult to get a start in contracting. These actions not only impact small business but also the ability of agencies to get quality products and services at competitive prices.

The Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) previously provided a low-entry point that allowed small businesses to get their foot in the door for federal contracting. Through the orders placed by multiple agencies, these firms could build their capacity and capabilities while at the same time building a past performance record. Agencies benefited from this arrangement as it allowed them to compare prices from hundreds of vendors and get exactly what they needed. However, GSA has continued to turn its back on the value that MAS contracts can bring to the government in favor of the new Category Management approach.

While Category Management has been billed as the strategy that can get agencies the lowest price, all evidence the committee has seen points to the contrary. In fact, in many cases the MAS contract holders continue to provide lower prices versus those offered by Category Management contract holders. However, agencies cannot often buy at the lower price as these other contracts have been made mandatory vehicles by their agency. Ultimately, this means agencies pay more than necessary for goods and services.

Additionally, decisions by GSA have reduced the overall number of businesses that have been able to compete for contracting opportunities. Many of the new contracting vehicles coming out of

GSA have bundled so many goods together in one contract that a lot of small businesses do not have the capabilities to bid for it, despite having previously provided some of the goods or services under the MAS contracts. As a result the number of small firms serving as suppliers to the government in certain areas has gone from the hundreds to just a few handfuls.

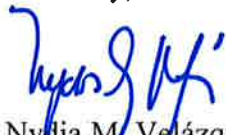
This is worrisome for a number of reasons. First, it reduces competition between firms, providing relatively little incentive to lower prices. Additionally, it reduces the industrial base as it is unclear whether firms not awarded a contract under these mandatory Category Management vehicles will be able to keep their doors open if they do not receive orders from their MAS contract.

GSA has even recently targeted contracts outside of the Category Management initiative with burdensome requirements that would make it difficult to continue doing business with the agency. Many small firms informed the committee that the proposed Transactional Data Rule issued last year would require massive costs and paperwork burdens as many of them stated they do not have systems to collect all of the data GSA is seeking. In addition to changes to their existing system and increased reporting, small businesses have expressed doubt as to whether the new requirements will be successful in lowering pricing. Based on the data we have seen coming out of Category Management vehicles that have similar reporting requirements, we are concerned as to whether these measures will allow agencies to receive the best prices available for goods and services.

Lastly, we are deeply troubled by the level of small business participation at your agency. While each year GSA has high levels of dollars awarded to small firms, these numbers continue to be inflated as a result of exclusions to the agency's base. In the last fiscal year, GSA excluded approximately 60 percent of the total dollars spent by the agency when it calculated the eligible small business dollars. Based on this data, GSA awarded only 18 percent of its dollars to small businesses rather than the 44 percent published in the Small Business Goaling Report.

Therefore, we are writing to request information in terms of the steps being taken to remove barriers for small firms wishing to do business with GSA as well as to strongly encourage you to increase participation of small businesses that contract with your agency. It is our hope that we can work collaboratively to ensure all businesses have access to contracting opportunities at the U.S. General Services Administration.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Ranking Member



Steve Chabot
Chairman

cc: Jerome Fletcher, Associate Administrator for the Office of Small Business Utilization, GSA



May 11, 2016

The Honorable Steve Chabot
The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez
Chairman and Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chabot and Ranking Member Velázquez:

Thank you for your letter to Administrator Denise Turner Roth dated April 5, 2016, regarding small business opportunities at the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). The Administrator has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

GSA has a long history of active participation with small businesses and takes its responsibilities, commitment and relationships with this community very seriously. Maximizing small business utilization is a top priority for GSA. For Fiscal Year (FY)15, GSA set a goal that 5% of eligible spending for the agency go to small and disadvantaged businesses across all categories. GSA exceeded this goal by 16 percentage points and awarded 21% to small business. Moreover, GSA has been recently made aware that its FY15 Small Business Procurement Scorecard is an A+, which is the highest rating awarded by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). This rating was earned because GSA exceeded all of its prime contracting small business goals and provided quality outreach and customer service to small businesses nationwide.

In implementing Category Management, maintaining or improving small business participation continues to be a high priority and is one of the key metrics that GSA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are using to gauge the progress and success of the initiative. Category Management will help agencies to better understand their spending and will harmonize the Federal Government's buying by making greater use of existing enterprise-wide vehicles across Government. These solutions include GSA's Multiple Award Schedule program (MAS), IT contracting vehicles such as NASA Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP), NIH Chief Information Officer-Commodities and Solutions (CIO-CS), and GSA Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs) as well as strategic sourcing contracts. GSA recognizes the recent amendment in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring the

SBA small business report card to focus not only on agency results in meeting statutory goals for dollars to each socio-economic group, but also to have grades impacted by the number of small businesses receiving contract awards. GSA will add this critical public policy objective to the Category Management strategies.

With regard to the MAS program, it continues to serve as an important gateway for small businesses to enter the Federal marketplace. Eighty percent of all MAS contracts are held by small businesses, a testament to GSA's commitment to these industry partners. As of FY15, MAS business volumes totaled \$33 billion, 39% of which went to small businesses. Small business sales have been growing steadily for several fiscal years, and on average saw a 14% increase in sales volume through the MAS program in FY15.

To further assist small business, GSA has launched the Making It Easier (MIE) initiative that contains tools such as: a Plain Language Roadmap to assist with responding to IT Schedule 70 solicitations, a FAST Lane process to help qualified vendors receive a contract award within 45 days, a Startup Springboard to bring new and innovative companies and solutions to the Federal market, and a Welcome Package to guide new contractors across all of the MAS program through a unified portal to foster contract success, both in compliance and sales. GSA also recently launched an automated Forecast Tool giving small businesses a new way to search for upcoming GSA contracting opportunities. The Forecast Tool provides information in a web-based, easy-to-use format and improves accessibility and transparency of potential small business opportunities.

The Federal Government spends hundreds of billions of dollars annually procuring goods and services. Understanding the details of what the Federal Government buys and the price it pays is essential to ensuring efficient use of taxpayer money. Unfortunately, GSA has limited insight into these transactions. GSA's transactional data rule seeks to address this knowledge gap. To ensure that GSA formulates the rule with input from relevant stakeholders, GSA held a public meeting on April 17, 2015, with nearly 200 companies, organizations, and government agencies, and interest groups represented. GSA is carefully evaluating all comments received as it moves forward to address this important issue, including the impact on small business.

Finally, addressing your concern about GSA small business participation levels, GSA strictly complies with SBA's goaling report methodology. By far the largest FAR based acquisitions excluded from the GSA spending base are contracts awarded under the AbilityOne Program. GSA is committed to promoting opportunity for the blind and severely handicapped and is proud of its status as their largest civilian agency partner.

GSA estimates that the partnership with SourceAmerica created over 4,300 jobs last fiscal year.

While fully reflected in the GSA spending base, GSA is challenged to find small businesses with the necessary resources for large construction projects. Unlike the facilities management requirements in Public Buildings Service (PBS) which account for 80% of small business dollars within PBS, large dollar construction projects require additional resources such as the capability to secure bonds which small business find taxing, if not impossible. Nevertheless, GSA continues to look for ways to provide outreach and support to the small business community and to give opportunities in markets where small businesses have historically been underutilized.

As explained above, GSA is committed to supporting small businesses in the Federal marketplace and appreciates your continued interest in this topic. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at (202) 501-0563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa A. Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and last name "Austin" clearly legible.

Lisa A. Austin
Associate Administrator



June 30, 2016

The Honorable Steve Chabot
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chabot:

Thank you for your letter dated May 16, 2016, regarding the use of photoluminescent technology in Federal buildings.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) adopted photoluminescent technology in 2011 with stairwell applications. Since then, GSA also deployed the technology in other ways, including in paint and in safety, directional, and exit signage.

Regarding exit signage, GSA references photoluminescent technology as a viable option in its design standard for renovation and new construction, the *Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service* (P-100). The P-100 requires that exit signs meet National Fire Protection Association standards, building codes, and other energy and sustainability attributes.

An identical letter has been sent to your colleague. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at (202) 501-0563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Austin".

Lisa A. Austin
Associate Administrator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2016

Administrator Denise Turner Roth
U.S. General Services Administration
GSA Office of the Administrator
1800 F Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20405



Administrator Roth,

Recent incidents at federal buildings, including the U.S. Capitol Complex, have been a sobering reminder of the unique challenges we face as we work to ensure the safety and security of the millions of Americans who visit and work in federal government buildings every day. Effective signage to guide people to safety is just one component of sound emergency preparedness.

I write to bring to your attention a new, state-of-the-art technology that I believe may provide a cost-effective solution to some of these unique safety challenges at federal buildings.

Photoluminescent technology may be used in the form of signage, such as exit signs for office buildings with complex architectural layouts. These photoluminescent signs offer several advantages over traditional signs because they do not require electricity to operate.

In the event of an emergency, people rely on exit signs to guide them to safety. However, the vast majority of traditional exit signs require electricity to operate. If a natural disaster, terrorist attack or power outage were to occur, a federal building's electricity supply could be compromised, rendering traditional electric signs useless; jeopardizing the safety and security of all occupants.

Moreover, the electricity required to operate traditional electric safety signs increases building operational costs through higher electricity consumption.

Reports from Energystar.gov indicate that this technology is more energy-efficient and less costly than the old electric and LED signs.

As Energystar.gov indicates, Photoluminescent exit signs are a potential cost saving alternative to the traditional signs in the following ways:

- Photoluminescent signs require no back-up batteries
- Photoluminescent signs require no light bulbs to replace
- Photoluminescent signs require no electricity
- Photoluminescent signs require no periodic testing

Because of these differences, photoluminescent technology can offer substantial cost savings. As we look for new and improved ways to ensure the safety and security of the people who visit and work in federal buildings in these dangerous times, I respectfully request that you give the

use of photoluminescent exit and safety signs every full and fair consideration in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

This innovative technology has the potential to save lives while saving the taxpayers money. As such, I believe it is worthy of consideration as a viable alternative to the electric signs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to Chris Hess in my office at Chris.Hess@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2216. Additionally, please feel free to make this correspondence part of any public record..

Sincerely,



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress